ABSOLUTE
MARTIAN MANHUNTER
DC
ALL IN
15+ TEEN+ 10
CAMP
RODRÍGUEZ

THE SUPER/BAT FAMILIES UNITE FOR THEIR MOST EPIC ADVENTURE YET!

ON SALE IN APRIL

BATMAN • SUPERMAN

WORLD'S FINEST #50

OVERSIZE 40-PAGE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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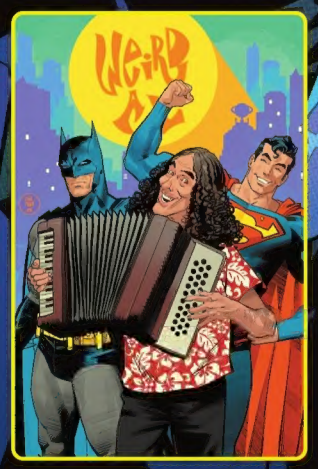
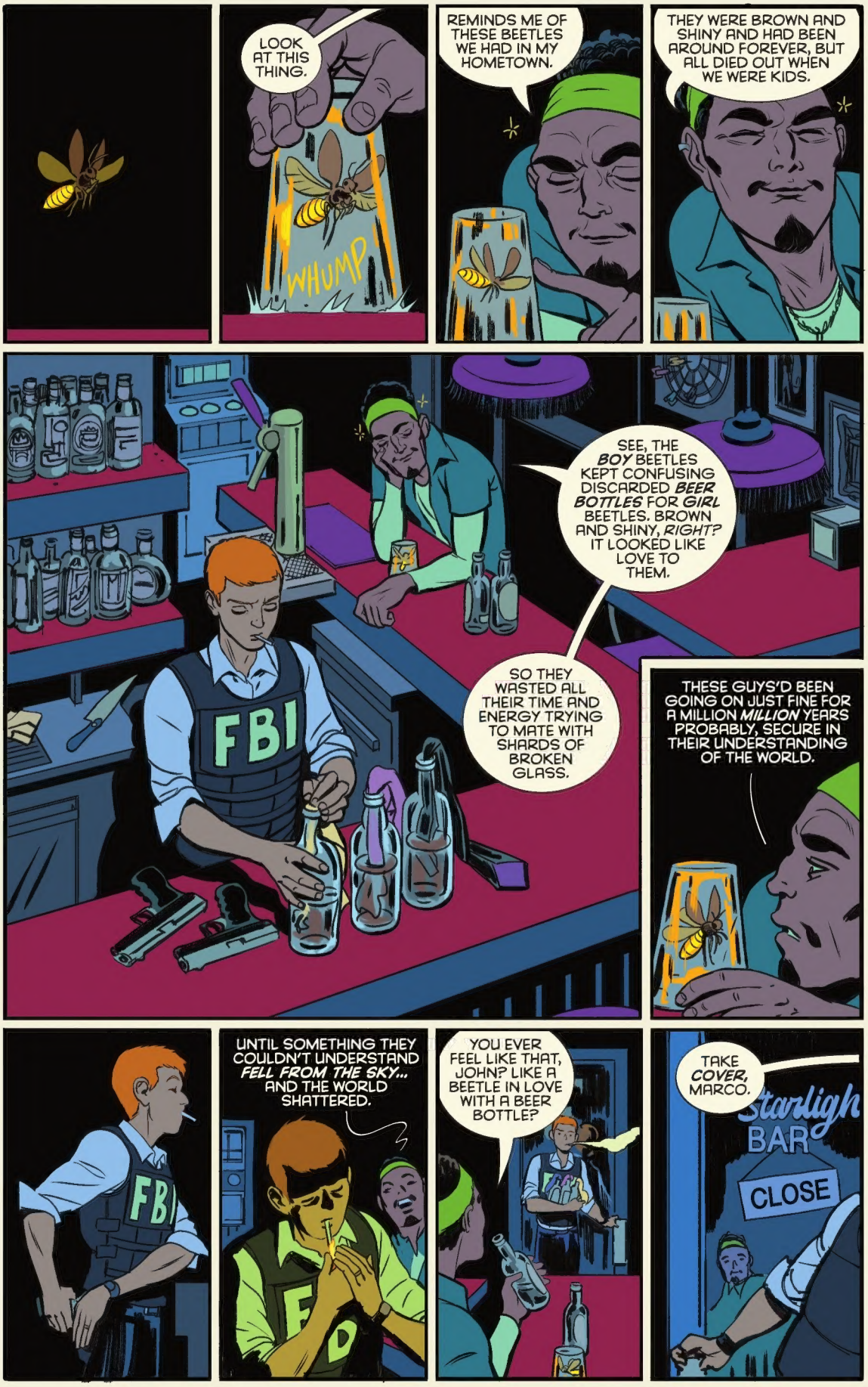


PLUS: DON'T MISS THE "WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC VARIANT COVER!

WRITTEN BY MARK WAID
ART BY ADRÍAN GUTIÉRREZ AND
THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF DAN MORA


LOOK AT THIS THING.
WHUMP
REMINDS ME OF THESE BEETLES WE HAD IN MY HOMETOWN.
THEY WERE BROWN AND SHINY AND HAD BEEN AROUND FOREVER, BUT ALL DIED OUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
SEE, THE BOY BEETLES KEPT CONFUSING DISCARDED BEER BOTTLES FOR GIRL BEETLES. BROWN AND SHINY, RIGHT? IT LOOKED LIKE LOVE TO THEM.
SO THEY WASTED ALL THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TRYING TO MATE WITH SHARDS OF BROKEN GLASS.
FBI
THESE GUYS'D BEEN GOING ON JUST FINE FOR A MILLION MILLION YEARS PROBABLY, SECURE IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD.
FBI
UNTIL SOMETHING THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND FELL FROM THE SKY... AND THE WORLD SHATTERED.
FBI
YOU EVER FEEL LIKE THAT, JOHN? LIKE A BEETLE IN LOVE WITH A BEER BOTTLE?
TAKE COVER, MARCO.
Starlight
BAR
CLOSE

Motel
SSSSSSSSSHHHH
AFTER THIS, I SWEAR I'M QUITTING DRINKING.
KA-CHOW KACHOW
BADUM
AAAAAAAHH
KACHOW
I GUESS WHAT NAGS AT ME IS... IF WE CAN BE WRONG ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT... SOMETHING LIKE LOVE...
...WHAT ELSE COULD WE BE WRONG ABOUT?
I'm serious.
CRASH
BANG BANG BANG
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
FBI
THUD
KA-CHOW
BADOOM

KA-CHOW
KA-CHOW
KA-CHOW
KA-CHOW
CHOP
CHOP
FBI
BLAM
BLAM
CRACK

CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP
BRA TAT BRAT BRAT TAT TAT
PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT
BB LA LA AM
CRASH
WAAAAOOOOOO
WHOMP
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BU
UGH!
WHO IS THIS GUY?
I'M RAINBOW. UNCLE SAM SENT ME.

EVEN AFTER ALL WE'VE PUT IT THROUGH, IT'S STILL TAKING THE *ENTIRE U.S. PRISON SYSTEM* JUST TO HOLD IT DOWN!
EXACTLY. EXACTLY WHY WE HAVE TO LEARN *EVERY-THING* WE CAN!
WHAT DOES IT *WANT?* WHAT IS IT *CAPABLE* OF? WHERE DOES IT *COME FROM?* ARE THERE MORE? CAN WE WEAPONIZE IT?
PART OF THE PROBLEM IS IT'S SO ALIEN, WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. WE'LL HAVE TO TRANSLATE... *VIOLENTLY.*
WHATEVER IT TAKES. TURN UP THE *ABSORB-ACON!*
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT SOME ANSWERS.
AARGH

I'm so happy...
I AM SO HAPPY!
SLICE
I'm lucky to have a son like Tyler.
I AM LUCKY TO HAVE A SON LIKE TYLER!
SLICE
SLICE
GET AWAY FROM ME!
SLICE

FEELING PRETTY GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF, HUH, JOHN?
FWHSHOOM
FBI
CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS INSANE VET'S ACID-WAR FLASH-BACK, ONE MAN AGAINST A PSYCHEDELIC ARMY.
WZZZ
MOTEL BAR
WZZ
BLAM BLAM
WZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
WZZZ
CRASH
WZZZ
CRASH
RUSH OF ADRENALINE, ENDORPHINS, DOPAMINE, PRIDE...
...THIS IS WHY PEOPLE FIGHT WARS IN THE FIRST PLACE. THIS HIGH YOU'RE FEELING.
CRASH
MARCO!
FBI
WAR'S A DRUG.

Marco...
FBI
BUT THE COME-DOWN'S A BITCH.
LISTEN, man, I CAN EMPATHIZE!
YOU THINK I HAVEN'T COMMUNED WITH GIGANTIC GREEN THOUGHTS? FILLED MYSELF UP WITH SMOKE AND SACRED POTENT MOLECULES?
I'VE BEEN EXPANDING MY CONSCIOUSNESS SINCE THE '60s, BROTHER! HOW DO YOU THINK I GOT LIKE THIS?
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
I'VE DANCED ALONG THE EDGE OF REALITY, THE VERY EDGE, RIGHT WHERE IT TURNS INTO DREAM.
I GET IT.
BANG BANG
BUT THE THING ABOUT ANY TRIP IS, AT SOME POINT--
--IT ENDS.

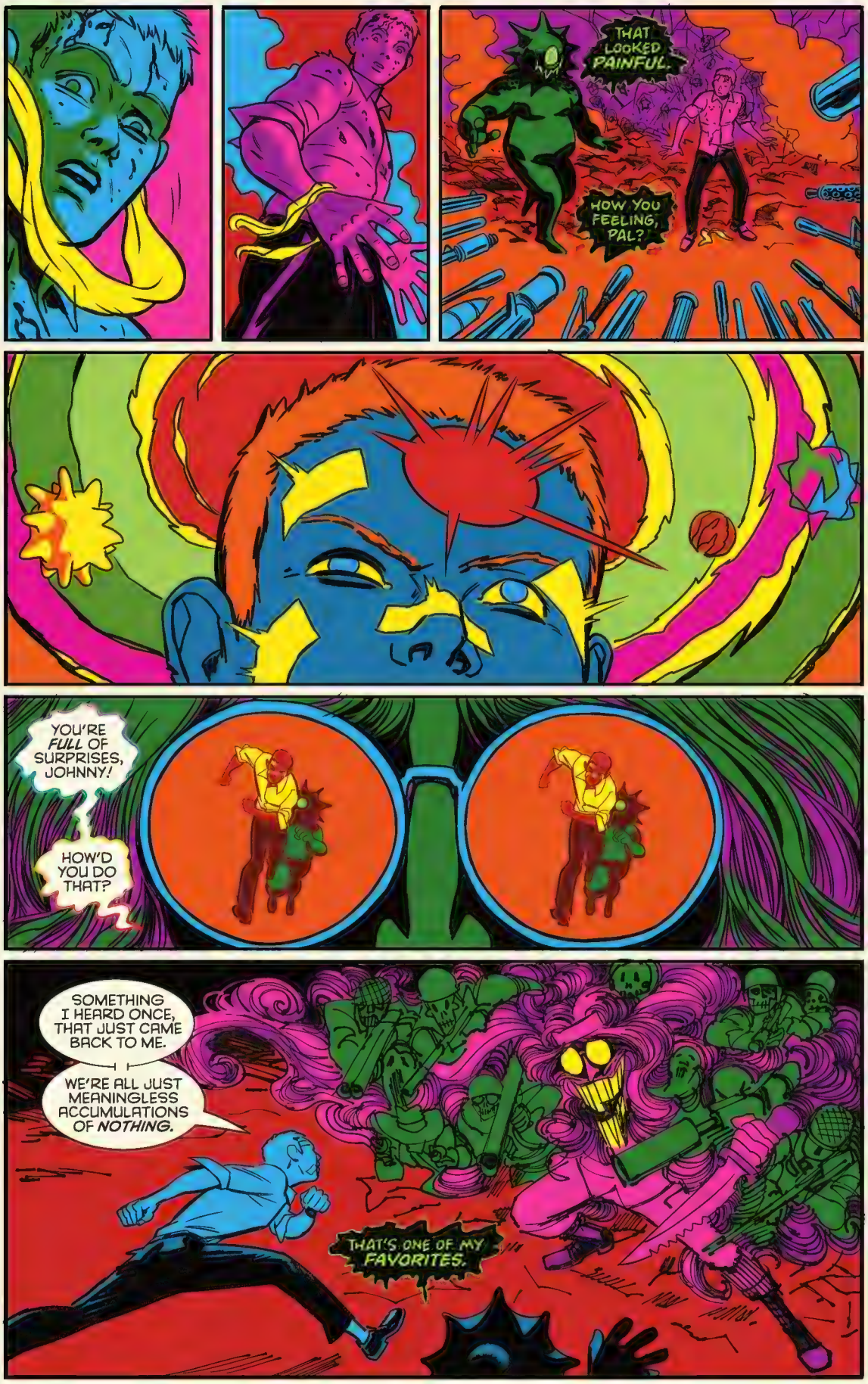
AND YOU'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO *REALITY.*
HE MAKES A GOOD POINT.
STAY BACK! ARE YOU... are you with the *White Martian?*
I WORK FOR THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE. FOR THE WAY THINGS *WERE, ARE,* AND ALWAYS *WILL BE,* JOHNNY. THE INVISIBLE EMPIRE CALLED CONSENSUS...
WOW, THAT WAS OVER FAST. NOT MUCH OF A FIGHTER, ARE YA?
AND YOU... YOU AND THAT *ONE-EYED MIND#@%$ER* WE GOT LOCKED UP IN THE BAY...
...YOU'RE A *THREAT* TO ALL THAT.

WHAT IS THIS, LOWE?
IT'S A METAPHOR, SIR.
IT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF ORIGIN STORY.
IT'S A ROMANCE!
I don't get it.
IT'S A TRAGEDY!
IT'S A FEEL-GOOD STORY!
It's a piece of @€%#!
IT'S A COMEDY!
IT'S A MASTER-PIECE!
A METAPHOR?

METAPHOR FOR WHAT?
CHOCO CHISPI
TOTAL FAT 80%
I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, MY SWEET BABE
ANYTHING
HUNGRY, hon?
"SEARCH A CENTURY AND YOU WON'T FIND THEM."

THOSE LINES THAT LOOK SO BRIGHT AND CLEAR ON THE MAP-- THE LAND GIVES THEM NO ACKNOWLEDGMENT OR ACCOMMODATION.
Listen... JUST LISTEN. I'M NOT WHAT YOU THINK. IT'S NOT--
JOHN...
BORDERS ARE STORIES OLD MEN TELL EACH OTHER. THEY STINK OF PIPE SMOKE AND ARE OBVIOUS FABRICATIONS.
YOU'RE BEING MANIPULATED. LIED TO.
BORDERS ARE A LIE.
"BUT CROSS THOSE LIE-LINES WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR POWER...?
"WITHOUT SUBMITTING TO THEIR AUTHORITY?"
JOHN...
Well-- TERRIBLE FATES AWAIT YOU...

...A DARK CLOUD WILL FOLLOW YOU FOR ALL YOUR DAYS.
AND THE LAND WILL-- FOR YOU-- BE A PLACE OF EXTREMES, EXCLUSIVELY. A LAND OF FIRE AND ICE.
DON'T DO THIS. I HAVE A FAMILY. I-I-I WORK FOR THE FBI--
CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK
WHERE WAS I GOING WITH ALL THIS? Oh, right. BORDERS.
BORDERS ARE A LIE.
BUT SOME LIES YOU LISTEN TO, DAMMIT!
JOHN!
BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA

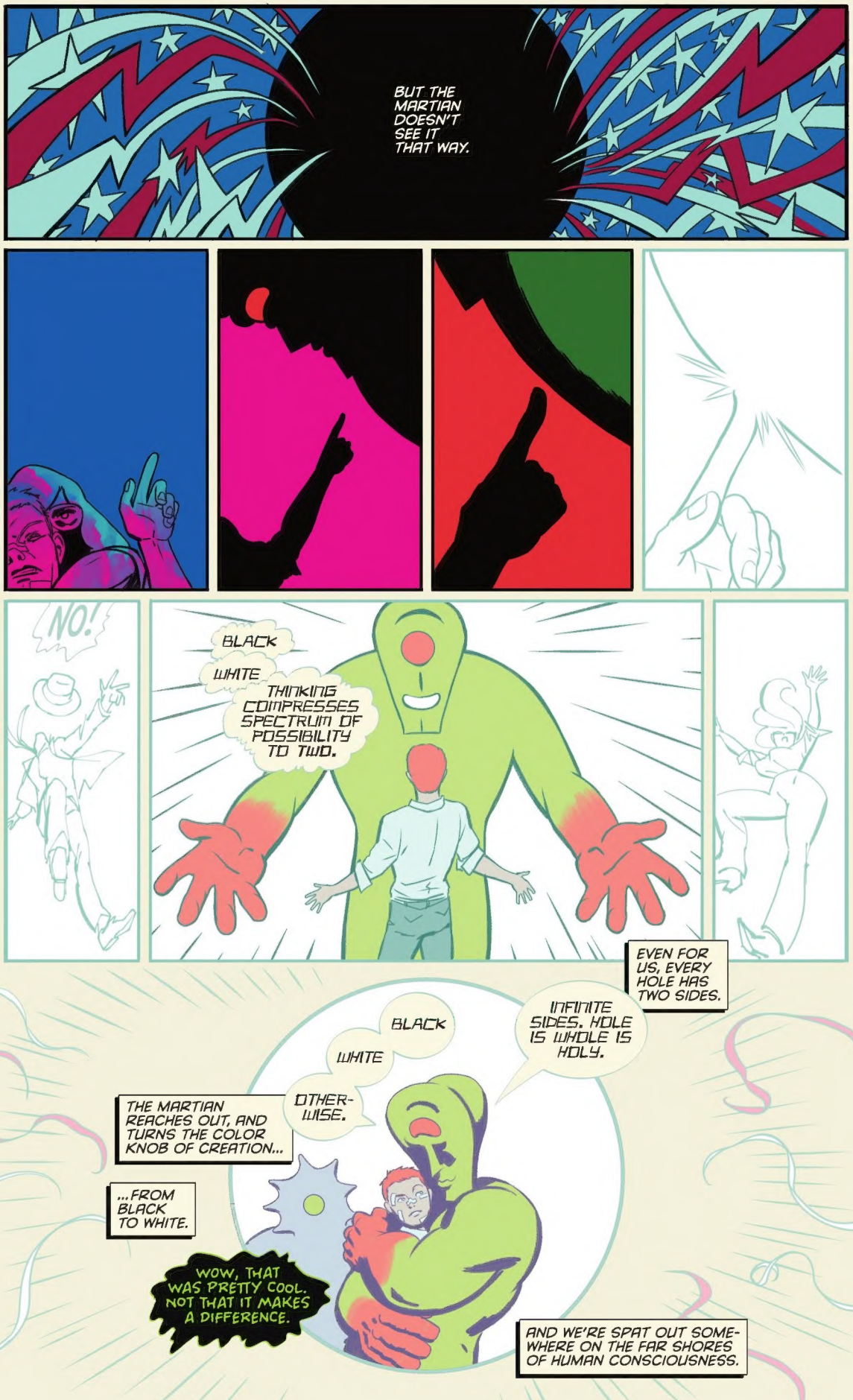

THAT LOOKED PAINFUL.
HOW YOU FEELING, PAL?
YOU'RE FULL OF SURPRISES, JOHNNY!
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
SOMETHING I HEARD ONCE, THAT JUST CAME BACK TO ME.
WE'RE ALL JUST MEANINGLESS ACCUMULATIONS OF NOTHING.
THAT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITES.

I THINK I'M *FINALLY* BEGINNING TO SEE WHAT IT *MEANS.*
WHERE ARE YOU *GOING,* JOHN?

ROUTE 66
I'M GOING TO GET THE MARTIAN. I KNOW A SHORT-CUT.
NO. IT KNOWS A SHORTCUT. YOU'RE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.
Motel
THE CAR IS AN EXTENSION OF MY WILL.
I FEEL EVERY ATOM OF IT DOWN IN THE TIP OF MY TOE.
LEFT, THEN RIGHT, THEN LEFT AGAIN, AND THEN A HALF DOZEN DIRECTIONS WE DON'T HAVE NAMES FOR.
YOU'VE ALWAYS FOLLOWED ORDERS. AND LOOK WHAT IT'S GOTTEN YOU.
YOU'VE LOST EVERYTHING. YOUR HOUSE, YOUR JOB, YOUR MARRIAGE, YOUR SANITY, YOUR SON... EVERYTHING.
WE BREAK THE MIND/BODY BARRIER AND LEAVE PHYSICAL REALITY IN OUR INCOMPREHENSIBLE DUST...
AND YET HERE WE ARE, FORDING STREAMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND BLACK, BLACK GRAVITY. RUNNING TO THE RESCUE.
GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER.

THEY'RE KEEPING THE MARTIAN IN THE CENTER OF A BLACK HOLE.
A PLACE WHERE THE USUAL LAWS DON'T APPLY-- CONSTITUTIONAL, PHYSICAL, MORAL.
YOU'RE MORE TRAPPED THAN IT IS, AMIGO.
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU COME FROM?
THAT'S HIM! THE MARTIAN COLLABORATOR!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF-- YOU'RE TRYING TO DESTROY ME.
I ALSO SAID I'D NEVER LIE TO YOU. AND I NEVER HAVE.
A PLACE WHERE ANYTHING GOES.
JOHN! BROKEN
WOUNDED
INCOMPLETE!
Well, ISN'T THAT SWELL! THANKS FOR SAVING US THE TROUBLE!
WELCOME TO NIHILO BAY, TRAITOR. YOU JUST WON YOURSELF A LIFETIME STAY, ON UNCLE SAM.
OH WELL, I TRIED. TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW.
THE THING ABOUT SOLDIERS, JOHN? GOOD OR BAD, MOST OF THEM DIE.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
I DON'T CARE IF I DIE.
BLAM
CHOK
THWAKK
WEAK
WOUNDED
FALLING APART.
MUST GO, PARTNER.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! NOTHING ESCAPES NIHILO BAY. NOT MATTER, NOT LIGHT. NOT EVEN INFORMATION.
PARTNER!
JUST HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FIRST.
WHOK


BUT THE MARTIAN DOESN'T SEE IT THAT WAY.
NO!
BLACK
WHITE
THINKING COMPRESSES SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITY TO TWO.
EVEN FOR US, EVERY HOLE HAS TWO SIDES.
INFINITE SIDES. HOLE IS WHOLE IS HOLY.
BLACK
WHITE
OTHER-WISE.
THE MARTIAN REACHES OUT, AND TURNS THE COLOR KNOB OF CREATION...
...FROM BLACK TO WHITE.
WOW, THAT WAS PRETTY COOL. NOT THAT IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
AND WE'RE SPAT OUT SOMEWHERE ON THE FAR SHORES OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS.

GUESS WE'RE A THREESOME NOW, HUH?
DO YOU LIKE IT, HONEY?
ARE YOU HAPPY?
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU HAPPY?
I would do anything to make you happy.

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To be CONTINUED.

CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
OF THE COMICS MASTERPIECE.

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THE DARK KNIGHT™ RETURNS

BY FRANK MILLER
WITH KLAUS JANSON AND LYNN VARLEY

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ARTIST, *BATMAN: H2SH*

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BATMAN 40 THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SUPERGIRL
WOMAN OF TOMORROW

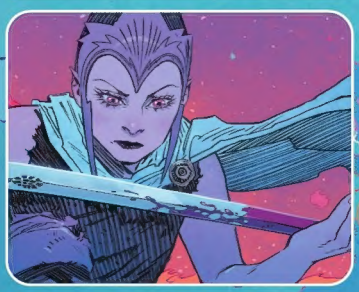
INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow has quickly become a modern classic now headed to the big screen this June! A 2023 Hugo Award finalist and one of the New York Public Library's Best Books for Adults in 2022, the character-defining sci-fi/fantasy masterpiece continues to reach both dedicated comics fans and first-time readers. Writer Tom King reflects on the book's emotional depth, its inspirations, and the transcendent visual world artist Bilquis Evely and colorist Matheus Lopes brought to life.

How would you describe *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*?

Tom King: It was a story very much inspired by old Westerns and ancient literature. It's about a young girl named Ruthye. Her father is killed and she's trying to seek revenge for that killing. Supergirl finds Ruthye and they find something in each other, a loss they've both experienced. They go on this mission and Ruthye thinks she's going on a mission of revenge and Supergirl thinks she's going off to save this young girl from her emotions, that she's just going to bring justice and not revenge. As the two of them go through the trials and tribulations of space, they learn the other's perspective. Supergirl learns that pain could lead to anger, and Ruthye learns how anger could lead to redemption.

Bilquis has multiple talents and they're all highlighted in this book. One of them is world-building. No one makes these beautiful backgrounds that seem to come alive, that seem to pour out from a dream you never knew you had. Another thing she brings is such emotional depth to her character work.



We can't talk about Supergirl without talking about the amazing art. What was the experience like seeing the visuals come together?

TK: I've worked with some of the best artists in comics, and lord knows Bilquis Evely is one of them. I had no idea the transcendence that she, along with Matheus Lopes, would put into those pages. They elevated this book in a way that few artists have done in the history of comics.

I mean if you look at the final cover, it's Supergirl standing on a beach staring out, which is basically the whole comic in her expression, and no one puts more lines in anything like Bilquis does, but there's like seven lines that define her face. In those seven lines, you see the entire history of this character. You see her family dying, you see the hope of her father pushing her away. You see the conflict, the ability to turn all that pain into hope into love, all in one image, all in seven lines. I mean, it's a miracle.

There are so many ways to experience this story. Let's talk about it!

TK: The magic of this book is that you can give it to anybody. You could give it to someone who's read comics for 40 years and knows this character, knows how honest we are to her, and you could give it to someone who's never read a panel of a comic book. DC Comics has been kind enough to put it in a lot of places that new readers can find it. If you want the whole big experience, there's a beautiful oversize hardcover which has extra material of my scripts and extra art. There's a softcover of the book where you could read it and disappear from the world for a while, go into your adventure that'll make you both laugh and cry and be mad and have fun.

There's also a DC Compact Comics edition. It looks like a small book, sits beautifully on your shelf. You can pick one up from the shop, hand it to your daughter, and suddenly she has something to read in the car on the way home. Next thing you know, she's a fan of this book and a fan of the medium.

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